thunderstorms are taking place, but vice versa, thunderstorms are not necessarily accompanied by auroras, though they are attended on their outskirts by incandescent clouds and if clouds are wanting by discharges on telephone, telegraph and kite wires.—*C. A.*

FAKE FORECASTS.

From the Portland Telegram of November 7, 1901, we learn that many of the inhabitants of the town of Woods, on Nestucca Bay, Oreg., were greatly excited over the prediction by a local prophet of "a great tidal wave" for November 3, that was to sweep over the strip of low coast to the mountains, carrying destruction in its path. The absurdity of such forecasts should at once be apparent, since waves properly designated as *tidal* are entirely dependent upon the character of the tides, whether spring or neap, and full information in regard to them is published months in advance by the United States Hydrographic Office. Storm waves, on the other hand, are a phenomenon accompanying severe storms, which latter almost never approach our coasts without ample warning from the United States Weather Bureau. We are, therefore, in danger of being taken unawares by earthquake or seismic waves only, and no one is as yet able to forecast these except possibly a few hours ahead, as when the operators of telegraphs and cables notify each other. An ocean wave produced by an earthquake on the coast of Japan or in the Philippines would require several hours to reach the American coast, and its arrival might safely be anticipated after receiving cablegrams announcing the passage of the earthquake itself. See the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, November, 1895, p. 424, "The Storm Wave at Sausalito," where the speed of earthquake ocean waves is given.

Newspapers must be allowed the freedom of printing whatever they choose, but certainly the public may learn to read these thrilling fake predictions of storms and waves with perfect equanimity.

But these predictions appear in a different aspect when they issue from a voluntary observer of the United States Weather Bureau. The province of a voluntary observer is to observe, record, and report, but not to predict. The moment he appears before the public with a forecast of waves or of earthquakes, that moment he endangers his position as observer. It is possible that the Weather Bureau may need him and employ him as an "official forecaster" if he has great gifts in that line, but it is not probable that it will ever recognize him as a "voluntary forecaster." Is there not an explicit statute dealing with nonofficial forecasters?—*C. A.*

PROF. LUIGI PALAZZO.

By a royal decree, dated July 28, 1901, Prof. Luigi Palazzo was appointed Director of the Central Office of Meteorology and Geodynamics at the Colegio Romano, Rome, Italy, as a result of the competition proclaimed by the Minister of Agriculture, to fill the position made vacant by the retirement of the eminent Prof. Pietro Tacchini, who founded and directed said office with so much success for more than twenty years.

CORRIGENDA.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for September, 1901, p. 410, column 1, line 22, for "material" read "cloud observations;" line 23, for "observations" read "these."

THE WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

By ALFRED J. HENRY, Professor of Meteorology.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WEATHER FOR OCTOBER.

The chief characteristics of the month were dryness and clear skies. From the 18th to the 26th the skies were clear in all parts of the country, and there was practically no rainfall, except on the southeastern coast of Florida and locally in Upper Michigan. During this time an area of high pressure covered the country, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is very unusual to chart the weather conditions of the United States for a single day without recording a trace of rainfall in any portion, and still more remarkable that an entire week should pass without a measurable amount of rain falling, except on the southeastern coast of Florida and a few sprinkles in Upper Michigan.

PRESSURE.

The distribution of monthly mean pressure is graphically shown on Chart IV and the numerical values are given in Tables I and VI.

Monthly mean pressure was highest over the Appalachian region in West Virginia, Virginia, the western portion of North Carolina, and eastern Tennessee; it was lowest north of Montana and over the Southwest. As compared with monthly mean pressure for the previous month, there was a marked rise, amounting in some cases to two-tenths of an inch and over. The greatest change occurred in the middle Rocky Mountain region and generally throughout the Southwest. Monthly mean pressure was one-tenth of an inch above normal from the Ohio Valley eastward to the Atlantic coast. It was also generally above the normal in the remaining districts east of the Rocky Mountains. The only negative departures recorded during the month were on the north Pacific coast and in the Plateau region.

TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR.

The distribution of monthly mean surface temperature, as deduced from the records of about 1,000 stations, is shown on Chart VI.

The month was warmer than usual in practically all districts. The greatest positive departures were noted in Montana and the British Possessions. Positive departures of from 4° to 6° were also recorded from the Mississippi Valley westward to the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains and on the northern Plateau and north Pacific coast. Negative departures were recorded at less than a dozen stations and the deficiencies in these cases were generally less than a degree.

The average temperature for the several geographic districts, and the departures from the normal values are shown in the following table: